



NEWS

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CALIFORNIA WELCOMES 131 NEW HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICERS

A set of identical twins and a female Army helicopter pilot make up the second wave of the first major expansion of the CHP in decades

(Sacramento) The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has added 131 new officers to the ranks. Among those sworn to protect and serve are identical twin brothers from Ceres and a female Army helicopter pilot from Sanger, who served in Iraq.

As formal training for this diverse group of men and women ends, these newly sworn CHP officers begin their service with one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the world.

The Serrato twins, Gerardo and Fabio, will be separated for the first time; with Gerardo assigned to the Oakland area office and Fabio to the East Los Angeles area office. Meanwhile, Officer Kaci Lutz, who's still active in the military as a member of the California National Guard, will join her husband, Officer Chris Lutz in CHP's Monterey area office.

"They have earned, and should take great pride in their new position as an officer of the California Highway Patrol," said CHP Commissioner Mike Brown. "This career will be both challenging and sometimes dangerous; becoming a CHP officer is a show of service and commitment to California."

This graduating class marks the second wave of the first major expansion of the CHP in nearly four decades. In March, 136 new officers were added to the CHP's nearly 7,000 uniformed personnel who patrol more than one million miles of roadway throughout the state of California.

In an effort to continue to address the growth in population and licensed drivers and to enhance public safety, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2007-08 proposed state budget provides for additional expansion of the CHP by 120 officers. This increase would follow the previous year's authorization by the governor to add 240 new positions.

A new class with as many as 190 prospective cadets begins training at the CHP Academy Monday, June 18. Cadet training at the 27-week, live-in academy includes vehicle patrol, crash investigation, first aid, firearms training, and learning California's extensive Vehicle, Penal, and Health and Safety codes.

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